



## **First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – February 17, 2015**

### **FirstNet News**

- We conducted the one and a half day Texas initial consultation meeting last week on February 11-12. In conjunction with the Texas initial consultation meeting, local official meetings were held with Austin Mayor Stephen Adler and Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo and department command staff.
- Last week, FirstNet also participated in the NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association Telecom Executive Forum, the Pennsylvania FirstNet Southeastern Regional meeting, the Emergency Services Committee meeting of the United South & Eastern Tribes (USET) at Impact 2015 and the U.S. Forest Service Radio Executive Council meeting.
- This week, in coordination with the NTIA State and Local Implementation Grant Program team, we will hold SPOC Data Collection preview meetings February 18 and 20, in which FirstNet will preview and solicit SPOC input on the data collection activities that would be beneficial for the SPOCs to collect to inform the Request for Proposal and State Plans.
- Also this week, FirstNet will be participating in the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) meeting, the 21st Century Broadband Networks meeting, a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) webinar entitled “How FirstNet Can Help EMS Provide Better Patient Care” (register [here](#)), and the County Executives of America Board Meeting.
- FirstNet Federal Outreach met with the Department of the Interior’s Radio Executive Committee on February 11<sup>th</sup>, providing updates on FirstNet activities and to discuss consultation preparation of the agency with the bureau representatives.
- The first in person Tribal Working Group (TWG) meeting will be held February 22 in Washington, DC in conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council Winter Session. The TWG will be providing advice and recommendations on tribal outreach, education, and inclusive strategies to ensure full participation by tribal jurisdictions in the nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network.

- Confirmed upcoming initial consultation meetings are: Delaware (2/19), Wyoming (2/25), Arkansas (3/4), Massachusetts (3/12), Nebraska (3/18-3/19), Washington DC (3/26), South Dakota (4/1), Missouri (4/7), North Carolina (4/23), South Carolina (4/30), Idaho (5/21), New Hampshire (6/9), Kansas (6/17), CA (6/23-25), Georgia (7/21), Hawaii (8/12), Indiana (8/26) and New Jersey (9/3).
- To date, FirstNet has received completed consultation checklists from 46 of 56 states and territories: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Washington DC, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.
- The next FirstNet Board and Committee meetings will be **March 24-25** at the Department of Commerce headquarters building in Washington, DC. More information regarding registration and the agenda will be forthcoming.

### **From the States and PSAC Organizations**

- The PSAC Executive Committee held a conference call on February 9 and discussed the new PSAC tasking work groups and the June meeting. A full PSAC webinar was held on February 17.

### **Media Watch**

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#### *Traditional Media*

Media coverage this week focused on state consultation, the Early Builders network projects, and the Alpine ski championships in Vail where a demonstration public safety LTE network was in operation. Key stories from this week include:

### **Radio Resource Mission Critical Communications Magazine: State Consultation Shows FirstNet Evolution**

<http://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/ODE/MissionCritical/> (p.6, Feb 2015)

In January, I attended the Colorado state consultation meeting with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). FirstNet's message at the meeting was much more practical than it was during the early days, particularly when it comes to coverage. The early board meetings brought big promises of 100 percent broadband coverage. We all know that isn't financially realistic in a country as large and as geographically diverse as the U.S. Those bold predictions have been toned down. While still promises much better coverage than commercial networks, it will be too cost prohibitive to cover every square mile of the country.

### **FirstNet Should Have More Choices Than Just Opt-In/Opt-Out**

<https://medium.com/@BillSchrier/firstnet-more-choices-than-just-opt-in-out-cb47b306b62c>

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) was created by Congress in 2012 and funded with \$7 billion to deploy a nationwide wireless network dedicated to public safety. But Congress also attached many strings to FirstNet. One of the major requirements is the creation of a plan to deploy FirstNet in each state. That State Plan—created in consultation with public safety responders in that state—is then presented to the Governor of that State for an explicit decision: opt-in and allow FirstNet to proceed, or opt-out. Technically if the Governor “opts out” the state itself is supposed to build the network in the state, with some financial support from the First Responder Network Authority.

### *Social Media*

Social media discussions about FirstNet focused on outreach and consultation in the states and territories, the Alpine World Ski Championship, and upcoming events such as “How FirstNet Can Help EMS Provide Better Patient Care,” a Webinar with Board Member Kevin McGinnis and Director of Outreach Amanda Hilliard on February 19.

We posted a number of blogs this past week detailing our outreach and consultation, including one on the LA-RICS project: <http://firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/early-builders-blog-la-rics>; Additional blogs can be found here: <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>; The FirstNet Twitter account has more than 1,685 followers; LinkedIn 526; Google+ 24; and YouTube has 86 subscribers.